IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims[[.]]

1. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of at least one active substance~~ A method for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of at least one viral disease, comprising administering a physiologically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one active substance that ~~characterized by that the active substance~~ inhibits a cellular caspase such that a virus multiplication is inhibited.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of at least one active substance according to claim 1, characterized by that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the caspase is ~~the~~ caspase-3.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of at least one active substance according to one of claims 1 to 2, characterized by that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the active substance(s) is (are) selected from the following active substances:

- peptide and non-peptide inhibitors of the cellular caspase-3, ~~such as~~ comprising
  - Z-DEVD-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
  - Ac-DEVD-CHO ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
  - Ac-DMQD-CHO ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
  - Z-D(OMe)E(OMe)VD(OMe)-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
  - Z-D(OMe)QMD(OMe)-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~,

- inhibitors of cellular caspases, which can activate caspase-3, ~~such as~~ comprising
  - peptide and non-peptide inhibitors of the caspase-9, ~~such as~~ comprising
    - o Z-LE(OMe)HD(OMe)-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
    - o Z-LEHD-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
    - o Ac-LEHD-CHO ~~(Alexis Biochemicals),~~
  - peptide and non-peptide inhibitors of the caspase-8, ~~such as~~ comprising
    - o Z-LE(OMe)TD(OMe)-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~

- o Ac-ESMD-CHO ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
- o Ac-IETD-CHO (Alexis Biochemicals)
- o Z-IETD-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~,

• peptide and non-peptide inhibitors of the caspase-10, ~~such as~~ comprising

- o Ac-AEVD-CHO ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
- o Z-AEVD-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~,

• peptide and non-peptide inhibitors of other caspases or granzyme B and pan-caspase inhibitors, ~~such as~~ comprising

- o Z-VAD-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
- o Z-VAD-(OMe)-FMK ~~(Alexis Biochemicals)~~
- o Ac-YVAD-CHO ~~(Calbiochem)~~
- o Z-YVAD-FMK ~~(Calbiochem)~~
- o Z-VDVAD-FMK ~~(Calbiochem)~~
- o Ac-LEVD-CHO ~~(Calbiochem)~~,

- an inhibitory peptide, ~~in particular~~ comprising Z-VAD-FMK or Z-DEVD-FMK,
- ~~an~~ a non-peptide inhibitor of caspases,
- dominant-negative mutant of a caspase,
- an antisense-oligonucleotide, which specifically accumulates at the DNA sequence or m-RNA sequence coding for a cellular caspase and inhibits the transcription or translation thereof,
- a protein, which inhibitingly acts on caspases, ~~for instance~~ comprising the cellular inhibitors of apoptosis proteins cIAP1, cIAP2, the X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis protein XIAP, the antiapoptotic protein Bcl-2 or the baculoviral protein p35,
- dsRNA oligonucleotides, which are suitable for the specific degradation of the mRNA's of a cellular caspase by the RNAi technology,
- an antibody or antibody fragment specific for a caspase or a fusion protein containing at least one antibody fragment, ~~for instance~~ comprising a Fv fragment, which inhibits the protease activity of a caspase.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of at least one active substance according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized by that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the viral disease is caused by RNA or DNA viruses, ~~preferably~~ comprising influenza viruses.

5. (Currently Amended) A combination preparation for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of at least one viral disease, comprising at least two antiviral active substances, wherein at least one antiviral active substance is selected from the active substances according to claim 3, wherein the combination preparation can be used in the form of a mixture or as individual components for using them simultaneously or at different times at identical or different places.

6. (Currently Amended) A combination preparation for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of a viral disease, comprising at least one active substance according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 and at least one antivirally acting substance, which is a kinase inhibitor.

7. (Currently Amended) A combination preparation for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of a viral disease, comprising at least one active substance according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 and at least one antivirally acting substance, which is a 1-adamantanamine, a rimantadine, a neuraminidase inhibitor or a nucleoside analog ~~such as~~ comprising ribavirin.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An active substance or a~~ The combination preparation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 5 for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of an infection with negative-strand RNA viruses, ~~in particular~~ comprising influenza viruses or Borna viruses.

9. (Currently Amended) A test system for finding active substances, which act on at least one cellular caspase, ~~in particular~~ comprising caspase-3, such that a virus multiplication is inhibited, comprising:

[[a.]] a) at least one cell infectable with at least one virus and comprising at least one cellular caspase and at least one virus infecting the cells, or

[[b.]] b) at least one cell infectable with at least one virus and comprising at least one cellular caspase.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The test system according to claim 9, ~~characterized by that~~ wherein the virus is an RNA or DNA virus, ~~preferably~~ comprising an influenza virus.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The test system according to claim 9 ~~or 10, characterized by that~~ wherein the cell comprises at least one overexpressed caspase, ~~in particular~~ comprising caspase-3.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The test system according to ~~one of claims 9 to 11 characterized by that~~ claim 9, ~~it~~ comprises a cell, in which at least one gene coding for at least one dominant-negative mutant of at least one caspase is expressed.

13. (Currently Amended) A test system according to ~~one of claims 9 to 12, characterized by that it comprises a cell~~ claim 9, further comprising a cell in which the expression for at least one caspase, ~~in particular~~ comprising caspase-3, is inhibited.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying at least one active substance for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of viral diseases, which substantially inhibits or inhibit the multiplication of viruses during viral diseases, comprising the following steps:

[[a.]] a) bringing at least one test system according to ~~one of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9 into contact with at least one potential active substance, and

[[b.]] b) determining the effects on ~~the~~ virus multiplication.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a drug for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of a viral disease, which substantially inhibits the multiplication of viruses during viral diseases, comprising the following steps:

[[a.]] a) performing a test system according to ~~one of claims 9 to 15~~ claim 9, and

[[b.]] b) reacting the active substance(s) with at least one auxiliary and/or additional substance.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of at least one caspase inhibitor, in particular a caspase-3 inhibitor, for preparing a pharmaceutical composition~~ A method for the prophylaxis ~~and/~~or therapy of a viral infection, ~~in particular~~ comprising an infection with an RNA negative-strand virus, ~~preferably~~ comprising an influenza infection, comprising administering a physiologically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one caspase inhibitor, comprising a caspase-3 inhibitor.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~in addition~~ further comprises at least one ~~further~~ additional antiviral active substance, which is not a caspase inhibitor, ~~in particular~~ comprising an inhibitor of one or several cellular kinases.

18. (Currently Amended) A combination preparation~~, in particular~~ for the treatment of a viral infection, comprising at least one caspase inhibitor and another antiviral active substance, which is not a caspase inhibitor, ~~in particular~~ comprising an inhibitor of one or several cellular kinases, each in a physiologically well tolerated dose, and galenic auxiliary and carrier substances, wherein the caspase inhibitor and the further antiviral active substance ~~may~~ exist in a mixture or in separate galenic preparations, intended for ~~the~~ simultaneous or successive administration.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~use or a~~ combination preparation according to ~~one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 18, wherein the caspase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of the substances according to claim 3 and mixtures of such substances.

20. (Currently Amended) The use or a combination preparation according to ~~one of claims 16 to 19~~ claim 18, wherein the further antiviral active substance is selected from the group consisting of [[‘’]]neuraminidase inhibitors, nucleoside analogs, 1-adamantanamine, rimantadine, ribavirin, Relenza, 3-deazaadenosine, MEK inhibitors, ~~in particular from the substance groups~~

comprising butadiene derivatives, flavon derivatives and benzamide derivatives, 2-(2-amino-3-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4H-(1)benzopyran, U0126, PD18453, PD98059, inhibitors of a kinase of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway, ~~e.g.~~ comprising non-steroidal anti-inflammatory substances inhibiting the NF-kB activity, ~~such as~~ comprising phenyl alkyl acid derivatives ~~such as~~ comprising sulindac or derivatives of sulindac ~~such as~~ comprising sulindac sulphoxide, sulindac sulphone, sulindac sulphide, benzylamide sulindac analogs, salicylic acid derivatives, ~~such as~~ comprising salicylic acid or acetysalicyl acid, salicylamide, salacetamide, ethenzamide, diflunisal, olsalazine or salazosulphapyridine, curcumin, antioxidants ~~such as~~ comprising pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate (PDTC), oxicams, ~~such as~~ comprising piroxicam, vitamin E and derivatives thereof, ~~such as~~ comprising pentamethyl hydroxychromane (PMC), 17 beta-oestradiol and derivatives thereof, polyphenoles of the tea ~~such as~~ comprising Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), Bay11-7182, peptides, which inhibit the interaction of at least two components of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway, ~~for instance~~ comprising peptides binding to NEMO, proteosome inhibitors, ~~such as~~ comprising PS-341 and lactacystin, antisense-oligonucleotides, which specifically accumulate at the DNA sequence or m-RNA sequence coding for a component of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway and inhibit the transcription or translation thereof, ~~for instance~~ comprising antisense- nucleotide sequences specific for p65 or p50, dominant-negative mutants of a component of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway, dsoligonucleotides, which are suitable for the specific degradation of the mRNA's of a component of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway by the RNAi technology, antibodies and antibody fragments specific for a component of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway, or fusion proteins containing at least one antibody fragment, ~~for instance~~ comprising a Fv fragment, which inhibit at least one component of the NF-kB signal transduction pathway, kinase-inhibiting flavon derivative or benzpyran derivative; kinase-inhibiting derivative of the 4H-1-benzopyran; flavopiridol derivative; 2-(2-amino-3-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4H-(1)benzopyran; 7,12-dihydro-indolo (3,2-d)(1)benzazepin-6(5H)-on; 70H-staurosporine ~~and~~/or a phosphokinase-inhibiting derivative of the 70H-staurosporine; butyrolactone; roscovitine; purvalanol A; emodin; anilinoquinazoline; phenylaminopyrimidine; trioylimidazole; paullone; [4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-methylsulfinylphenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)lH-imidazole; [1,4-diamino-2,3-dicyano-l,4-bis(2aminophenylthio) butadiene; kinase-inhibiting derivative of the butadiene; [2-2'-amino-3'-

methoxyphenyl)-oxa-naphtalen-4-on); [2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclo-propylmeth-oxy-3,4-difluoro benzamide; CEP-1347 (KT7515) bis-ethylthiomethyl; tetrapyrrolic macrocycles; pyrimidone derivative; 3-aminomethylen-indoline derivative; pyrazolo (3,4-b) pyridine derivative; pyrazole derivative; 1,4-substituted piperidine derivative; lipoidic ammonium salt; dominant-negative mutant of a kinase of a cellular signal transduction pathway; antisense-oligonucleotide, which specifically accumulates at the DNA sequence or mRNA sequence coding for a kinase of a cellular signal transduction pathway and inhibits the transcription or translation thereof; dsoligonucleotides, which are suitable for degradation of the mRNA's from kinases of a cellular signal transduction pathway by the RNAi technology; antibodies and antibody fragments specific for a kinase or a fusion protein containing at least one antibody fragment, ~~for instance~~ comprising a Fv fragment, which inhibits the kinase activity of a kinase module; ~~and/~~or a peptide, which inhibits the interaction of at least two kinases ~~preferably~~ activatable immediately after one another of a cellular signal transduction pathway, and mixtures of such substances[["]].

21. (Currently Amended) A method for screening for prospective antiviral active substances, comprising the following steps:

a) a cell containing a caspase, ~~in particular~~ comprising caspase-3, is infected with a virus, ~~in particular~~ comprising an RNA negative-strand virus, ~~preferably~~ comprising an influenza virus,

b) the cell is contacted with one or several prospective active substances,

c) ~~the~~ viral replication in the cell is determined,

d) an active substance or a mixture of active substances is selected, if the viral replication measured in step c) is smaller than when executing steps a) to c)~~, however~~ without a prospective active substance or with an inactive active substance,

e) ~~as an option,~~ a selected active substance is contacted with a cell infected with a virus, which does not express or contain a caspase, in particular caspase-3, and the viral replication is measured, and the active substance is further selected, if the measurement of the viral replication does not result in a significant modification relative to a measurement when contacting said infected cell with an inactive active substance or without any active substance,

wherein the steps a) and b) may occur in any order or simultaneously, and wherein the steps a) to d) on the one hand and the step e) on the other hand may occur in any order or simultaneously.